

To the Secretary of State:

Senate bill No. 63, entitled "An Act to grant relief to certain teachers who taught during the school year of 1895 and 1896 in Greer county, which was then considered a portion of the State of Texas, the said services of teachers terminating with the date of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, transferring the county of Greer from the State of Texas, and making it a part of the Territory of Oklahoma," is herewith transmitted, disapproved.

The bill under consideration appropriates four thousand one hundred forty-three and eighty-six one hundredths dollars for the payment of vouchers issued to teachers who taught school in Greer county during the scholastic year of 1895 and 1896, their services having been rendered prior to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, determining that said county of Greer was not within the territorial limits of the State of Texas.

It appears from the records of the General Land Office that patents were issued by the State to Greer county on July 18, 1887, for four leagues of land, amounting to seventeen thousand seven hundred and twelve acres, for the benefit of the public free schools in that county. It also appears that on January 12, 1888, Greer county sold ten thousand four hundred and seventy-six acres of these lands for a recited cash consideration of eleven thousand dollars. Since the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, above cited, suit has been instituted by the State against Greer county, and is now pending in the district court of Travis county, for the recovery of the unsold portion, to-wit: seven thousand two hundred and thirty-six acres.

In the circumstances, no good reason can be assigned why Greer county should not pay these teachers for the services so rendered out of the sum already received through the sale of a portion of the lands granted to it by the State for school purposes.

JOSEPH D. SAYERS,
Governor.

April 23, 1901.